

**CUSTODY AMENDMENTS**

2021 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Jacob L. Anderegg**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends child custody provisions.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ creates a rebuttable presumption that joint physical custody, where the parenting time is equal or as equal as practicable, is in the best interest of the child;
- ▶ establishes clear and convincing evidence as the burden of proof required to rebut the presumption that joint legal and physical custody, where the parents have an equal amount of time, is in the best interest of the child;
- ▶ modifies the factors for determining whether joint custody is in the best interest of a child; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**30-3-10**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, First Special Session, Chapter 5

**30-3-10.2**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 188



- 28 **30-3-10.3**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2012, Chapter 271
- 29 **30-3-10.4**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 188
- 30 **30-3-33**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 224
- 31 **30-3-35**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2020, Chapter 50
- 32 **30-3-35.5**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2017, Chapter 120

33 REPEALS:

- 34 **30-3-34**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 188

36 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

37 Section 1. Section **30-3-10** is amended to read:

38 **30-3-10. Custody of a child -- Custody factors.**

39 (1) If a married or unmarried couple having one or more minor children are separated,  
40 or ~~[the]~~ a married couple's marriage is declared void or dissolved, the court shall enter, and has  
41 continuing jurisdiction to modify, an order of custody and parent-time.

42 (2) In determining any form of custody and parent-time under Subsection (1), the court  
43 shall consider the best interest of the child and may consider among other factors the court  
44 finds relevant, the following for each parent:

45 (a) evidence of domestic violence, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional  
46 abuse, involving the child, the parent, or a household member of the parent;

47 (b) the parent's demonstrated understanding of, responsiveness to, and ability to meet  
48 the developmental needs of the child, including the child's:

49 (i) physical needs;

50 (ii) emotional needs;

51 (iii) educational needs;

52 (iv) medical needs; and

53 (v) any special needs;

54 (c) the parent's capacity and willingness to function as a parent, including:

55 (i) parenting skills;

56 (ii) co-parenting skills, including~~[:]~~ a parent's willingness and ability to:

57 (A) ~~[ability to]~~ appropriately communicate with the other parent;

58 (B) ~~[ability to]~~ allow and encourage the sharing of love and affection; ~~[and]~~

59            (C) refrain from influencing the child to denigrate or reject a parent, including  
60 indirectly through a third party; and  
61            ~~[(C) willingness to allow]~~  
62            (D) allow and encourage frequent and continuous contact between the child and the  
63 other parent, except that, if the court determines that the parent is acting to protect the child  
64 from domestic violence, neglect, or abuse, the parent's protective actions may be taken into  
65 consideration; and

66            (iii) ability to provide personal care rather than surrogate care;

67            (d) in accordance with Subsection ~~[(+0)]~~ (9), the past conduct and demonstrated moral  
68 character of the parent;

69            (e) the emotional stability of the parent;

70            (f) the parent's inability to function as a parent because of drug abuse, excessive  
71 drinking, or other causes;

72            (g) whether the parent has intentionally exposed the child to pornography or material  
73 harmful to minors, as "material" and "harmful to minors" are defined in Section 76-10-1201;

74            (h) the parent's reasons for having relinquished custody or parent-time in the past;

75            (i) duration and depth of desire for custody or parent-time;

76            ~~[(j) the parent's religious compatibility with the child;]~~  
77            ~~[(k) the parent's financial responsibility;]~~  
78            ~~[(l) the child's interaction and relationship with step-parents, extended family members~~  
79 ~~of other individuals who may significantly affect the child's best interests;]~~  
80            ~~[(m) who has been the primary caretaker of the child;]~~  
81            (j) a parent's violation of previous or existing custody or parent-time orders;  
82            (k) evidence of a parent influencing the child to denigrate or reject a parent, including  
83 indirectly through a third party;

84            ~~[(n)]~~ (l) previous ~~[parenting]~~ living arrangements in which the child has been happy  
85 and well-adjusted in the home, school, and community;

86            ~~[(o)]~~ (m) the relative benefit of keeping siblings together;

87            ~~[(p)]~~ (n) the stated wishes and concerns of the child, ~~[taking into consideration the~~  
88 ~~child's cognitive ability and emotional maturity;]~~ considering whether the child's wishes or  
89 concerns have been unduly influenced or whether the child has diminished capacity to express

90 the child's authentic desire; and

91 ~~[(q) the relative strength of the child's bond with the parent, meaning the depth, quality,~~  
92 ~~and nature of the relationship between the parent and the child; and]~~

93 ~~[(r)] (o)~~ any other factor the court finds relevant.

94 (3) ~~[There]~~ Subject to the factors in Subsection (2), there is a rebuttable presumption  
95 that joint legal custody, as defined in Section 30-3-10.1, and joint physical custody where the  
96 parenting time is equal or as equal as practicable, is in the best interest of the child~~[-except in~~  
97 ~~cases when there is:].~~

98 ~~[(a) evidence of domestic violence, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional~~  
99 ~~abuse involving the child, a parent, or a household member of the parent;]~~

100 ~~[(b) special physical or mental needs of a parent or child, making joint legal custody~~  
101 ~~unreasonable;]~~

102 ~~[(c) physical distance between the residences of the parents, making joint decision~~  
103 ~~making impractical in certain circumstances; or]~~

104 ~~[(d) any other factor the court considers relevant including those listed in this section~~  
105 ~~and Section 30-3-10.2.]~~

106 (4) (a) The person who desires joint legal custody shall file a proposed parenting plan  
107 in accordance with Sections 30-3-10.8 and 30-3-10.9.

108 (b) A presumption for joint legal custody may be rebutted by a showing by [a  
109 ~~preponderance of the~~] clear and convincing evidence that it is not in the best interest of the  
110 child.

111 (c) A presumption for joint physical custody, where the parenting time is equal or as  
112 equal as practicable, may be rebutted by a showing by clear and convincing evidence that it is  
113 not in the best interest of the child.

114 (5) (a) A child may not be required by either party to testify unless the trier of fact  
115 determines that extenuating circumstances exist that would necessitate the testimony of the  
116 child be heard and there is no other reasonable method to present the child's testimony.

117 ~~[(b) (i) The court may inquire of the child's and take into consideration the child's~~  
118 ~~desires regarding future custody or parent-time schedules, but the expressed desires are not~~  
119 ~~controlling and the court may determine the child's custody or parent-time otherwise.]~~

120 (b) Subject to Subsection (3), the court may:

121 (i) exercise discretion to determine the child's custody or parent-time;  
122 (ii) inquire of the child's desires regarding future custody or parent-time schedules; and  
123 (iii) consider the child's expressed desires, taking into consideration whether the child's  
124 preference has been unduly influenced or whether the child has diminished capacity to express  
125 the child's authentic desire.

126 ~~[(ii) The desires of a child 14 years of age or older shall be given added weight, but is~~  
127 ~~not the single controlling factor.]~~

128 (c) (i) If an interview with a child is conducted by the court pursuant to Subsection  
129 (5)(b), the interview shall be conducted by the judge in camera.

130 (ii) The prior consent of the parties may be obtained but is not necessary if the court  
131 finds that an interview with a child is the only method to ascertain the child's desires regarding  
132 custody.

133 (6) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(b), a court may not discriminate against a  
134 parent due to a disability, as defined in Section 57-21-2, in awarding custody or determining  
135 whether a substantial change has occurred for the purpose of modifying an award of custody.

136 (b) The court may not consider the disability of a parent as a factor in awarding custody  
137 or modifying an award of custody based on a determination of a substantial change in  
138 circumstances, unless the court makes specific findings that:

139 (i) the disability significantly or substantially inhibits the parent's ability to provide for  
140 the physical and emotional needs of the child at issue; and

141 (ii) the parent with a disability lacks sufficient human, monetary, or other resources  
142 available to supplement the parent's ability to provide for the physical and emotional needs of  
143 the child at issue.

144 (c) Nothing in this section may be construed to apply to adoption proceedings under  
145 Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 1, Utah Adoption Act.

146 ~~[(7) This section does not establish a preference for either parent solely because of the~~  
147 ~~gender of the parent.]~~

148 ~~[(8) This section establishes neither a preference nor a presumption for or against joint~~  
149 ~~physical custody or sole physical custody, but allows the court and the family the widest~~  
150 ~~discretion to choose a parenting plan that is in the best interest of the child.]~~

151 (7) When awarding custody or modifying an award of custody under Section

152 [30-3-10.4](#), the court may not:

153 (a) discriminate against a parent due to the parent's gender; or

154 (b) use the gender of a parent or child as a factor.

155 [~~9~~] (8) When an issue before the court involves custodial responsibility in the event  
156 of a deployment of one or both parents who are servicemembers, and the servicemember has  
157 not yet been notified of deployment, the court shall resolve the issue based on the standards in  
158 Sections [78B-20-306](#) through [78B-20-309](#).

159 [~~10~~] (9) In considering the past conduct and demonstrated moral standards of each  
160 party under Subsection (2)(d) or any other factor a court finds relevant, the court may not:

161 (a) consider or treat a parent's lawful possession or use of cannabis in a medicinal  
162 dosage form, a cannabis product in a medicinal dosage form, or a medical cannabis device, in  
163 accordance with Title 4, Chapter 41a, Cannabis Production Establishments, Title 26, Chapter  
164 61a, Utah Medical Cannabis Act, or Subsection [58-37-3.7](#)(2) or (3) any differently than the  
165 court would consider or treat the lawful possession or use of any prescribed controlled  
166 substance; or

167 (b) discriminate against a parent because of the parent's status as a:

168 (i) cannabis production establishment agent, as that term is defined in Section  
169 [4-41a-102](#);

170 (ii) medical cannabis pharmacy agent, as that term is defined in Section [26-61a-102](#);

171 (iii) medical cannabis courier agent, as that term is defined in Section [26-61a-102](#); or

172 (iv) medical cannabis cardholder in accordance with Title 26, Chapter 61a, Utah  
173 Medical Cannabis Act.

174 Section 2. Section [30-3-10.2](#) is amended to read:

175 **[30-3-10.2. Joint custody order -- Factors for court determination -- Public](#)**  
176 **assistance.**

177 (1) [~~The~~] Subject to the presumption described in Subsection [30-3-10](#)(3), the court may  
178 order joint legal custody or joint physical custody or both if one or both parents have filed a  
179 parenting plan in accordance with Section [30-3-10.8](#) and the court determines that joint legal  
180 custody or joint physical custody or both is in the best interest of the child.

181 (2) In determining whether the best interest of a child will be served by ordering joint  
182 legal custody or joint physical custody or both, the court shall consider the custody factors in

183 Section 30-3-10 and the following factors:

184 ~~[(a) whether the physical, psychological, and emotional needs and development of the~~  
185 ~~child will benefit from joint legal custody or joint physical custody or both;]~~

186 ~~[(b)]~~ (a) the ability and willingness of the parents to give first priority to the welfare of  
187 the child and reach shared decisions in the child's best interest;

188 ~~[(c)]~~ (b) co-parenting skills, including[:] a parent's ability and willingness to:

189 (i) [ability to] appropriately communicate with the other parent;

190 (ii) [ability to] allow and encourage the sharing of love and affection; [and]

191 (iii) refrain from influencing the child to denigrate or reject a parent, including  
192 indirectly through a third party; and

193 ~~[(iii) willingness to allow]~~

194 (iv) allow and encourage frequent and continuous contact between the child and the  
195 other parent, except that, if the court determines that the parent is acting to protect the child  
196 from domestic violence, neglect, or abuse, the parent's protective actions may be taken into  
197 consideration; and

198 ~~[(d) whether both parents participated in raising the child before the divorce;]~~

199 ~~[(e)]~~ (c) the geographical proximity of the homes of the parents;

200 (d) the ties the child has to the child's current school and community;

201 (e) the preference of the child, taking into consideration:

202 (i) evidence of a parent influencing the child to denigrate or reject a parent, including  
203 indirectly through a third party; and

204 (ii) whether the child's preference has been unduly influenced or whether the child has  
205 diminished capacity to express the child's authentic desire;

206 ~~[(f) the preference of the child if the child is of sufficient age and capacity to reason so~~  
207 ~~as to form an intelligent preference as to joint legal custody or joint physical custody or both;]~~

208 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) the maturity of the parents and their willingness and ability to protect the child  
209 from conflict that may arise between the parents;

210 ~~[(h)]~~ (g) the past and present ability and willingness of the parents to cooperate with  
211 each other and make decisions jointly; and

212 ~~[(i)]~~ (h) any other factor the court finds relevant.

213 ~~[(3) The determination of the best interest of the child shall be by a preponderance of~~

214 ~~the evidence.]~~

215  ~~[(4) The court shall inform both parties that an order for joint physical custody may~~  
216 ~~preclude eligibility for cash assistance provided under Title 35A, Chapter 3, Employment~~  
217 ~~Support Act.]~~

218 (3) If the court determines that either of the presumptions described in Subsection  
219 30-3-10(3) are rebutted by clear and convincing evidence, the court shall make written findings  
220 of fact explaining the court's determination.

221 (4) If joint physical custody, where the parenting time is equal or as equal as  
222 practicable, is not in the best interest of the child, the court shall order a parent-time schedule  
223 that maximizes the time with each parent, consistent with the child's best interest.

224 (5) The court may order that when possible the parties attempt to settle future disputes  
225 by a dispute resolution method before seeking enforcement or modification of the terms and  
226 conditions of the order of joint legal custody or joint physical custody through litigation, except  
227 in emergency situations requiring ex parte orders to protect the child.

228 Section 3. Section **30-3-10.3** is amended to read:

229 **30-3-10.3. Terms of joint legal or physical custody order.**

230 (1) Unless the court orders otherwise, before a final order of joint legal custody or joint  
231 physical custody is entered both parties shall attend the mandatory course for divorcing parents,  
232 as provided in Section **30-3-11.3**, and present a certificate of completion from the course to the  
233 court.

234 (2) An order of joint legal or physical custody shall provide terms the court determines  
235 appropriate, which may include specifying:

236 (a) either the county of residence of the child, until altered by further order of the court,  
237 or the custodian who has the sole legal right to determine the residence of the child;

238 (b) that the parents shall exchange information concerning the health, education, and  
239 welfare of the child, and where possible, confer before making decisions concerning any of  
240 these areas;

241 (c) the rights and duties of each parent regarding the child's present and future physical  
242 care, support, and education;

243 (d) provisions to minimize disruption of the child's attendance at school and other  
244 activities, his daily routine, and his association with friends; and



245 (e) as necessary, the remaining parental rights, privileges, duties, and powers to be  
246 exercised by the parents solely, concurrently, or jointly.

247 (3) The court shall, where possible, include in the order the terms of the parenting plan  
248 provided in accordance with Section 30-3-10.8.

249 (4) Any parental rights not specifically addressed by the court order may be exercised  
250 by the parent having physical custody of the child the majority of the time.

251 (5) The appointment of joint legal or physical custodians does not impair or limit the  
252 authority of the court to order support of the child, including payments by one custodian to the  
253 other.

254 (6) An order of joint legal custody, in itself, is not grounds for modifying a support  
255 order.

256 (7) An order of joint legal or physical custody shall require a parenting plan  
257 incorporating a dispute resolution procedure the parties agree to use:

258 (a) in accordance with Section 30-3-10.9, or as ordered by the court in accordance with  
259 Subsection 30-3-10.2(5); and

260 (b) before seeking enforcement or modification of the terms and conditions of the order  
261 of joint legal or physical custody through litigation, except in emergency situations requiring ex  
262 parte orders to protect the child.

263 Section 4. Section 30-3-10.4 is amended to read:

264 **30-3-10.4. Modification or termination of order.**

265 (1) On the petition of one or both of the parents, or the joint legal or physical  
266 custodians if they are not the parents, the court may, after a hearing, modify or terminate an  
267 order that established joint legal custody or joint physical custody if:

268 (a) the verified petition or accompanying affidavit initially alleges that admissible  
269 evidence will show that the circumstances of the child or one or both parents or joint legal or  
270 physical custodians have materially and substantially changed since the entry of the order to be  
271 modified;

272 (b) a modification of the terms and conditions of the order would be an improvement  
273 for and in the best interest of the child; and

274 (c) (i) both parents have complied in good faith with the dispute resolution procedure  
275 in accordance with Subsection 30-3-10.3(7); or

276 (ii) if no dispute resolution procedure is contained in the order that established joint  
277 legal custody or joint physical custody, the court orders the parents to participate in a dispute  
278 resolution procedure in accordance with Subsection 30-3-10.2(5) unless the parents certify that,  
279 in good faith, they have used a dispute resolution procedure to resolve their dispute.

280 (2) (a) In determining whether the best interest of a child will be served by either  
281 modifying or terminating the joint legal custody or joint physical custody order, the court shall,  
282 in addition to other factors the court considers relevant, consider the factors outlined in Section  
283 30-3-10 and Subsection 30-3-10.2(2).

284 (b) A court order modifying or terminating an existing joint legal custody or joint  
285 physical custody order shall contain written findings that:

286 (i) a material and substantial change of circumstance has occurred; and

287 (ii) a modification of the terms and conditions of the order would be an improvement  
288 for and in the best interest of the child.

289 (c) The court shall give substantial weight to the existing joint legal custody or joint  
290 physical custody order when the child is thriving, happy, and well-adjusted.

291 (3) The court shall, in every case regarding a petition for termination of a joint legal  
292 custody or joint physical custody order, consider reasonable alternatives to preserve the  
293 existing order in accordance with Subsection 30-3-10(3). The court may modify the terms and  
294 conditions of the existing order [~~in accordance with Subsection 30-3-10(8)~~] and may order the  
295 parents to file a parenting plan in accordance with this chapter.

296 (4) A parent requesting a modification from sole custody to joint legal custody or joint  
297 physical custody or both, or any other type of shared parenting arrangement, shall file and serve  
298 a proposed parenting plan with the petition to modify in accordance with Section 30-3-10.8.

299 (5) If the court finds that an action under this section is filed or answered frivolously  
300 and in a manner designed to harass the other party, the court shall assess attorney fees as costs  
301 against the offending party.

302 (6) If an issue before the court involves custodial responsibility in the event of  
303 deployment of one or both parents who are servicemembers, and the servicemember has not yet  
304 been notified of deployment, the court shall resolve the issue based on the standards in Sections  
305 78B-20-306 through 78B-20-309.

306 Section 5. Section 30-3-33 is amended to read:

307 **30-3-33. Advisory guidelines.**

308 [~~In addition to the parent-time schedules provided in Sections 30-3-35 and 30-3-35.5,~~  
309 ~~the]~~ The following advisory guidelines are suggested to govern all parent-time arrangements  
310 between parents.

311 (1) Parent-time schedules mutually agreed upon by both parents are preferable to a  
312 court-imposed solution.

313 (2) The parent-time schedule shall be used to maximize the continuity and stability of  
314 the child's life.

315 (3) Special consideration shall be given by each parent to make the child available to  
316 attend family functions including funerals, weddings, family reunions, religious holidays,  
317 important ceremonies, and other significant events in the life of the child or in the life of either  
318 parent which may inadvertently conflict with the parent-time schedule.

319 (4) The responsibility for the pick up, delivery, and return of the child shall be  
320 determined by the court when the parent-time order is entered, and may be changed at any time  
321 a subsequent modification is made to the parent-time order.

322 (5) If the noncustodial parent will be providing transportation, the custodial parent  
323 shall have the child ready for parent-time at the time the child is to be picked up and shall be  
324 present at the custodial home or shall make reasonable alternate arrangements to receive the  
325 child at the time the child is returned.

326 (6) If the custodial parent will be transporting the child, the noncustodial parent shall  
327 be at the appointed place at the time the noncustodial parent is to receive the child, and have  
328 the child ready to be picked up at the appointed time and place, or have made reasonable  
329 alternate arrangements for the custodial parent to pick up the child.

330 (7) Regular school hours may not be interrupted for a school-age child for the exercise  
331 of parent-time by either parent.

332 (8) The court may make alterations in the parent-time schedule to reasonably  
333 accommodate the work schedule of both parents and may increase the parent-time allowed to  
334 the noncustodial parent but may not diminish the standardized parent-time provided in Sections  
335 30-3-35 and 30-3-35.5.

336 (9) The court may make alterations in the parent-time schedule to reasonably  
337 accommodate the distance between the parties and the expense of exercising parent-time.

338 (10) Neither parent-time nor child support is to be withheld due to either parent's  
339 failure to comply with a court-ordered parent-time schedule.

340 (11) The custodial parent shall notify the noncustodial parent within 24 hours of  
341 receiving notice of all significant school, social, sports, and community functions in which the  
342 child is participating or being honored, and the noncustodial parent shall be entitled to attend  
343 and participate fully.

344 (12) The noncustodial parent shall have access directly to all school reports including  
345 preschool and daycare reports and medical records and shall be notified immediately by the  
346 custodial parent in the event of a medical emergency.

347 (13) Each parent shall provide the other with the parent's current address and telephone  
348 number, email address, and other virtual parent-time access information within 24 hours of any  
349 change.

350 (14) Each parent shall permit and encourage, during reasonable hours, reasonable and  
351 uncensored communications with the child, in the form of mail privileges and virtual  
352 parent-time if the equipment is reasonably available, provided that if the parties cannot agree  
353 on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the court shall decide whether the equipment  
354 for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking into consideration:

- 355 (a) the best interests of the child;
- 356 (b) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and
- 357 (c) any other factors the court considers material.

358 (15) Parental care shall be presumed to be better care for the child than surrogate care  
359 and the court shall encourage the parties to cooperate in allowing the noncustodial parent, if  
360 willing and able to transport the children, to provide the child care. Child care arrangements  
361 existing during the marriage are preferred as are child care arrangements with nominal or no  
362 charge.

363 (16) Each parent shall provide all surrogate care providers with the name, current  
364 address, and telephone number of the other parent and shall provide the noncustodial parent  
365 with the name, current address, and telephone number of all surrogate care providers unless the  
366 court for good cause orders otherwise.

367 (17) Each parent shall be entitled to an equal division of major religious holidays  
368 celebrated by the parents, and the parent who celebrates a religious holiday that the other parent

369 does not celebrate shall have the right to be together with the child on the religious holiday.

370 (18) If the child is on a different parent-time schedule than a sibling, based on Sections  
371 [30-3-35](#) and [30-3-35.5](#), the parents should consider if an upward deviation for parent-time with  
372 all the minor children so that parent-time is uniform between school aged and nonschool aged  
373 children, is appropriate.

374 (19) When one or both parents are servicemembers or contemplating joining a  
375 uniformed service, the parents should resolve issues of custodial responsibility in the event of  
376 deployment as soon as practicable through reaching a voluntary agreement pursuant to Section  
377 [78B-20-201](#) or through court order obtained pursuant to Section [30-3-10](#). Servicemembers  
378 shall ensure their family care plan reflects orders and agreements entered and filed pursuant to  
379 Title 78B, Chapter 20, Uniform Deployed Parents Custody, Parent-time, and Visitation Act.

380 Section 6. Section [30-3-35](#) is amended to read:

381 **30-3-35. Minimum schedule for parent-time for children 5 to 18 years old.**

382 (1) The parent-time schedule in this section:

383 (a) applies to children 5 to 18 years old[-]; and

384 (b) shall only be ordered:

385 (i) if the parties do not agree to a parent-time schedule; and

386 (ii) after the court considers whether an alternative parent-time schedule that

387 maximizes each parent's parenting time is in the best interest of the child under Subsection  
388 [30-3-10.2\(4\)](#).

389 (2) [~~If the parties do not agree to a parent-time schedule, the~~] The following schedule  
390 shall be considered the minimum parent-time to which the noncustodial parent and the child  
391 shall be entitled.

392 (a) (i) (A) One weekday evening to be specified by the noncustodial parent or the court,  
393 or Wednesday evening if not specified, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.;

394 (B) at the election of the noncustodial parent, one weekday from the time the child's  
395 school is regularly dismissed until 8:30 p.m., unless the court directs the application of  
396 Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A); or

397 (C) at the election of the noncustodial parent, if school is not in session, one weekday  
398 from approximately 9 a.m., accommodating the custodial parent's work schedule, until 8:30  
399 p.m. if the noncustodial parent is available to be with the child, unless the court directs the

400 application of Subsection (2)(a)(i)(A) or (2)(a)(i)(B).

401 (ii) Once the election of the weekday for the weekday evening parent-time is made, it  
402 may not be changed except by mutual written agreement or court order.

403 (b) (i) (A) Alternating weekends beginning on the first weekend after the entry of the  
404 decree from 6 p.m. on Friday until Sunday at 7 p.m. continuing each year;

405 (B) at the election of the noncustodial parent, from the time the child's school is  
406 regularly dismissed on Friday until Sunday at 7 p.m., unless the court directs the application of  
407 Subsection (2)(b)(i)(A); or

408 (C) at the election of the noncustodial parent, if school is not in session, on Friday from  
409 approximately 9 a.m., accommodating the custodial parent's work schedule, until Sunday at 7  
410 p.m., if the noncustodial parent is available to be with the child unless the court directs the  
411 application of Subsection (2)(b)(i)(A) or (2)(b)(i)(B).

412 (ii) A step-parent, grandparent, or other responsible adult designated by the  
413 noncustodial parent, may pick up the child if the custodial parent is aware of the identity of the  
414 individual, and the parent will be with the child by 7 p.m.

415 (iii) An election should be made by the noncustodial parent at the time of entry of the  
416 divorce decree or court order, and may be changed by mutual agreement, court order, or by the  
417 noncustodial parent in the event of a change in the child's schedule.

418 (iv) Weekends include any "snow" days, teacher development days, or other days when  
419 school is not scheduled and that are contiguous to the weekend period.

420 (c) Holidays include any "snow" days, teacher development days after the children  
421 begin the school year, or other days when school is not scheduled, contiguous to the holiday  
422 period, and take precedence over the weekend parent-time. Changes may not be made to the  
423 regular rotation of the alternating weekend parent-time schedule, however:

424 (i) birthdays take precedence over holidays and extended parent-time, except Mother's  
425 Day and Father's Day; and

426 (ii) birthdays do not take precedence over uninterrupted parent-time if the parent  
427 exercising uninterrupted time takes the child away from that parent's residence for the  
428 uninterrupted extended parent-time.

429 (d) If a holiday falls on a regularly scheduled school day, the noncustodial parent shall  
430 be responsible for the child's attendance at school for that school day.

431 (e) (i) If a holiday falls on a weekend or on a Friday or Monday and the total holiday  
432 period extends beyond that time so that the child is free from school and the parent is free from  
433 work, the noncustodial parent shall be entitled to this lengthier holiday period.

434 (ii) (A) At the election of the noncustodial parent, parent-time over a scheduled holiday  
435 weekend may begin from the time the child's school is regularly dismissed at the beginning of  
436 the holiday weekend until 7 p.m. on the last day of the holiday weekend; or

437 (B) at the election of the noncustodial parent, if school is not in session, parent-time  
438 over a scheduled holiday weekend may begin at approximately 9 a.m., accommodating the  
439 custodial parent's work schedule, the first day of the holiday weekend until 7 p.m. on the last  
440 day of the holiday weekend, if the noncustodial parent is available to be with the child unless  
441 the court directs the application of Subsection (2)(e)(ii)(A).

442 (iii) A step-parent, grandparent, or other responsible individual designated by the  
443 noncustodial parent, may pick up the child if the custodial parent is aware of the identity of the  
444 individual, and the parent will be with the child by 7 p.m.

445 (iv) An election should be made by the noncustodial parent at the time of the divorce  
446 decree or court order, and may be changed by mutual agreement, court order, or by the  
447 noncustodial parent in the event of a change in the child's schedule.

448 (f) In years ending in an odd number, the noncustodial parent is entitled to the  
449 following holidays:

450 (i) the child's birthday on the day before or after the child's actual birthdate beginning  
451 at 3 p.m. until 9 p.m., and at the discretion of the noncustodial parent, the noncustodial parent  
452 may take other siblings along for the birthday;

453 (ii) Martin Luther King, Jr. beginning 6 p.m. on Friday until Monday at 7 p.m. unless  
454 the holiday extends for a lengthier period of time to which the noncustodial parent is  
455 completely entitled;

456 (iii) subject to Subsection (2)(i), spring break beginning at 6 p.m. on the day school lets  
457 out for the holiday until 7 p.m. on the evening before school resumes;

458 (iv) July 4 beginning 6 p.m. on the day before the holiday until 11 p.m. or no later than  
459 6 p.m. on the day following the holiday, at the option of the parent exercising the holiday;

460 (v) Labor Day beginning 6 p.m. on Friday until Monday at 7 p.m., unless the holiday  
461 extends for a lengthier period of time to which the noncustodial parent is completely entitled;

462 (vi) subject to Subsection (2)(i), the fall school break beginning at 6 p.m. on the day  
463 that school lets out for the holiday until 7 p.m. on the evening before school resumes;

464 (vii) Veterans Day holiday beginning 6 p.m. on the day before the holiday until 7 p.m.  
465 on the holiday; and

466 (viii) the first portion of the Christmas school vacation as defined in Subsection  
467 30-3-32(3)(b), including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, continuing until 1 p.m. on the day  
468 halfway through the holiday period, if there are an odd number of days for the holiday period or  
469 until 7 p.m. if there are an even number of days for the holiday period, so long as the entire  
470 holiday period is equally divided.

471 (g) In years ending in an even number, the noncustodial parent is entitled to the  
472 following holidays:

473 (i) the child's birthday on the child's actual birthdate beginning at 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.,  
474 and at the discretion of the noncustodial parent, the noncustodial parent may take other siblings  
475 along for the birthday;

476 (ii) President's Day beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday until Monday at 7 p.m. unless the  
477 holiday extends for a lengthier period of time to which the noncustodial parent is completely  
478 entitled;

479 (iii) Memorial Day beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday until Monday at 7 p.m., unless the  
480 holiday extends for a lengthier period of time to which the noncustodial parent is completely  
481 entitled;

482 (iv) July 24 beginning at 6 p.m. on the day before the holiday until 11 p.m. or no later  
483 than 6 p.m. on the day following the holiday, at the option of the parent exercising the holiday;

484 (v) Columbus Day beginning at 6 p.m. the day before the holiday until 7 p.m. on the  
485 holiday;

486 (vi) Halloween on October 31 or the day Halloween is traditionally celebrated in the  
487 local community from after school until 9 p.m. if on a school day, or from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m.;

488 (vii) Thanksgiving holiday beginning Wednesday at 7 p.m. until Sunday at 7 p.m.; and

489 (viii) the second portion of the Christmas school vacation as defined in Subsection  
490 30-3-32(3)(b), beginning 1 p.m. on the day halfway through the holiday period if there are an  
491 odd number of days for the holiday period, or at 7 p.m. if there are an even number of days for  
492 the holiday period, so long as the entire Christmas holiday period is equally divided.



493 (h) The custodial parent is entitled to the odd year holidays in even years and the even  
494 year holidays in odd years.

495 (i) If there is more than one child and the children's school schedules vary for purpose  
496 of a holiday, at the option of the parent exercising the holiday or the parent's half of the  
497 holiday, the children may remain together for the holiday period beginning the first evening  
498 that all children's schools are let out for the holiday and ending the evening before any child  
499 returns to school.

500 (j) Father's Day shall be spent with the natural or adoptive father every year beginning  
501 at 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on the holiday.

502 (k) Mother's Day shall be spent with the natural or adoptive mother every year  
503 beginning at 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. on the holiday.

504 (l) Extended parent-time with the noncustodial parent may be:

505 (i) up to four consecutive weeks when school is not in session at the option of the  
506 noncustodial parent, including weekends normally exercised by the noncustodial parent, but  
507 not holidays;

508 (ii) two weeks shall be uninterrupted time for the noncustodial parent; and

509 (iii) the remaining two weeks shall be subject to parent-time for the custodial parent for  
510 weekday parent-time but not weekends, except for a holiday to be exercised by the other  
511 parent.

512 (m) The custodial parent shall have an identical two-week period of uninterrupted time  
513 when school is not in session for purposes of vacation.

514 (n) Both parents shall provide notification of extended parent-time or vacation weeks  
515 with the child at least 30 days before the end of the child's school year to the other parent and if  
516 notification is not provided timely the complying parent may determine the schedule for  
517 extended parent-time for the noncomplying parent.

518 (o) Telephone contact shall be at reasonable hours and for a reasonable duration.

519 (p) (i) Virtual parent-time, if the equipment is reasonably available and the parents  
520 reside at least 100 miles apart, shall be at reasonable hours and for reasonable duration.

521 (ii) If the parties cannot agree on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the  
522 court shall decide whether the equipment for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking  
523 into consideration:

- 524 (A) the best interests of the child;
- 525 (B) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and
- 526 (C) any other factors the court considers material.
- 527 (3) An election required to be made in accordance with this section by either parent
- 528 concerning parent-time shall be made a part of the decree and made a part of the parent-time
- 529 order.
- 530 (4) Notwithstanding Subsection (2)(e)(i), the Halloween holiday may not be extended
- 531 beyond the hours designated in Subsection (2)(g)(vi).

532 Section 7. Section 30-3-35.5 is amended to read:

533 **30-3-35.5. Minimum schedule for parent-time for children under five years of**  
534 **age.**

535 (1) ~~[The]~~ Subject to Subsection 30-3-10.2(4), the parent-time schedule in this section  
536 applies to children under five years old.

537 (2) All holidays in this section refer to the same holidays referenced in Section  
538 30-3-35.

539 (3) If the parties do not agree to a parent-time schedule, the following schedule shall be  
540 considered the minimum parent-time to which the noncustodial parent and the child shall be  
541 entitled.

542 (a) For children under five months of age:

543 (i) six hours of parent-time per week to be specified by the court or the noncustodial  
544 parent preferably:

545 (A) divided into three parent-time periods; and

546 (B) in the custodial home, established child care setting, or other environment familiar  
547 to the child; and

548 (ii) two hours on holidays and in the years specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(f)  
549 through (k) preferably in the custodial home, the established child care setting, or other  
550 environment familiar to the child.

551 (b) For children five months of age or older, but younger than nine months of age:

552 (i) nine hours of parent-time per week to be specified by the court or the noncustodial  
553 parent preferably:

554 (A) divided into three parent-time periods; and

555 (B) in the custodial home, established child care setting, or other environment familiar  
556 to the child; and

557 (ii) two hours on the holidays and in the years specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(f)  
558 through (k) preferably in the custodial home, the established child care setting, or other  
559 environment familiar to the child.

560 (c) For children nine months of age or older, but younger than 12 months of age:

561 (i) one eight hour visit per week to be specified by the noncustodial parent or court;

562 (ii) one three hour visit per week to be specified by the noncustodial parent or court;

563 (iii) eight hours on the holidays and in the years specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(f)  
564 through (k); and

565 (iv) brief telephone contact and other virtual parent-time, if the equipment is  
566 reasonably available, with the noncustodial parent at least two times per week, provided that if  
567 the parties cannot agree on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the court shall  
568 decide whether the equipment for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking into  
569 consideration:

570 (A) the best interests of the child;

571 (B) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and

572 (C) any other factors the court considers material.

573 (d) For children 12 months of age or older, but younger than 18 months of age:

574 (i) one eight-hour visit per alternating weekend to be specified by the noncustodial  
575 parent or court;

576 (ii) on opposite weekends from Subsection (3)(d)(i), from 6 p.m. on Friday until noon  
577 on Saturday;

578 (iii) one three-hour visit per week to be specified by the noncustodial parent or court;

579 (iv) eight hours on the holidays and in the years specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(f)  
580 through (k); and

581 (v) brief telephone contact and other virtual parent-time, if the equipment is reasonably  
582 available, with the noncustodial parent at least two times per week, provided that if the parties  
583 cannot agree on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the court shall decide whether  
584 the equipment for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking into consideration:

585 (A) the best interests of the child;

586 (B) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and  
587 (C) any other factors the court considers material.  
588 (e) For children 18 months of age or older, but younger than three years of age:  
589 (i) one weekday evening between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to be specified by the  
590 noncustodial parent or court; however, if the child is being cared for during the day outside his  
591 regular place of residence, the noncustodial parent may, with advance notice to the custodial  
592 parent, pick up the child from the caregiver at an earlier time and return him to the custodial  
593 parent by 8:30 p.m.;

594 (ii) alternative weekends beginning on the first weekend after the entry of the decree  
595 from 6 p.m. on Friday until 7 p.m. on Sunday continuing each year;

596 (iii) parent-time on holidays as specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(c) through (k);  
597 (iv) extended parent-time may be:

598 (A) two one-week periods, separated by at least four weeks, at the option of the  
599 noncustodial parent;

600 (B) one week shall be uninterrupted time for the noncustodial parent;

601 (C) the remaining week shall be subject to parent-time for the custodial parent  
602 consistent with these guidelines; and

603 (D) the custodial parent shall have an identical one-week period of uninterrupted time  
604 for vacation; and

605 (v) brief telephone contact and virtual parent-time, if the equipment is reasonably  
606 available, with the noncustodial parent at least two times per week, provided that if the parties  
607 cannot agree on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the court shall decide whether  
608 the equipment for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking into consideration:

609 (A) the best interests of the child;

610 (B) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and  
611 (C) any other factors the court considers material.

612 (f) For children three years of age or older, but younger than five years of age:  
613 (i) one weekday evening between 5:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to be specified by the  
614 noncustodial parent or court; however, if the child is being cared for during the day outside his  
615 regular place of residence, the noncustodial parent may, with advance notice to the custodial  
616 parent, pick up the child from the caregiver at an earlier time and return him to the custodial

- 617 parent by 8:30 p.m.;
- 618 (ii) alternative weekends beginning on the first weekend after the entry of the decree  
619 from 6 p.m. on Friday until 7 p.m. on Sunday continuing each year;
- 620 (iii) parent-time on holidays as specified in Subsections 30-3-35(2)(c) through (k);
- 621 (iv) extended parent-time with the noncustodial parent may be:
- 622 (A) two two-week periods, separated by at least four weeks, at the option of the  
623 noncustodial parent;
- 624 (B) one two-week period shall be uninterrupted time for the noncustodial parent;
- 625 (C) the remaining two-week period shall be subject to parent-time for the custodial  
626 parent consistent with these guidelines; and
- 627 (D) the custodial parent shall have an identical two-week period of uninterrupted time  
628 for vacation; and
- 629 (v) brief telephone contact and virtual parent-time, if the equipment is reasonably  
630 available, with the noncustodial parent at least two times per week, provided that if the parties  
631 cannot agree on whether the equipment is reasonably available, the court shall decide whether  
632 the equipment for virtual parent-time is reasonably available, taking into consideration:
- 633 (A) the best interests of the child;
- 634 (B) each parent's ability to handle any additional expenses for virtual parent-time; and
- 635 (C) any other factors the court considers material.
- 636 (4) A parent shall notify the other parent at least 30 days in advance of extended  
637 parent-time or vacation weeks.
- 638 (5) Virtual parent-time shall be at reasonable hours and for reasonable duration.

639 **Section 8. Repealer.**

640 This bill repeals:

641 Section 30-3-34, Parent-time -- Best interests -- Rebuttable presumption.